

GETTING MARRIED

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY OF TULARE
ASSESSOR/CLERK-RECORDER

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Assessor/Clerk-Recorder

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on obtaining your marriage license! We hope you find this informational booklet helpful in taking the necessary steps to complete your license. On behalf of the County Clerk’s Office, I extend my best wishes to you both as you prepare to embark on a new journey together.



Tara Freitas
Tulare County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder

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CONTACT US



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Visalia, CA 93291-4593
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Fax: (559) 740-4329
Clerk@tularecounty.ca.gov
Tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkrecorder

BEFORE THE CEREMONY

- ☐ **1. SELECT AN AUTHORIZED PERSON TO OFFICIATE YOUR CEREMONY**
A marriage ceremony can be performed by a person, known as an officiant, at least 18 years of age and is either (Family Code 400):
 - Authorized by any religious denomination to solemnize marriages
 - An authorized judge or justice
 - A member or former member of Congress
 - An elected officer or former elected officer of a city or county
 - A person who has been appointed as a deputy commissioner of civil marriages for the day
- ☐ **2. REVIEW THE MARRIAGE LICENSE FOR CORRECT INFORMATION**
Verify the issuance date. The license must have been issued within 90 days of the ceremony. You must be married before the expiration date shown on the license, or the license will be void.

25A. ISSUE DATE (MM/DD/CCYY)	25B. EXPIRES AFTER (MM/DD/CCYY)
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- ☐ **3. GIVE THE MARRIAGE LICENSE AND LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR OFFICIANT**



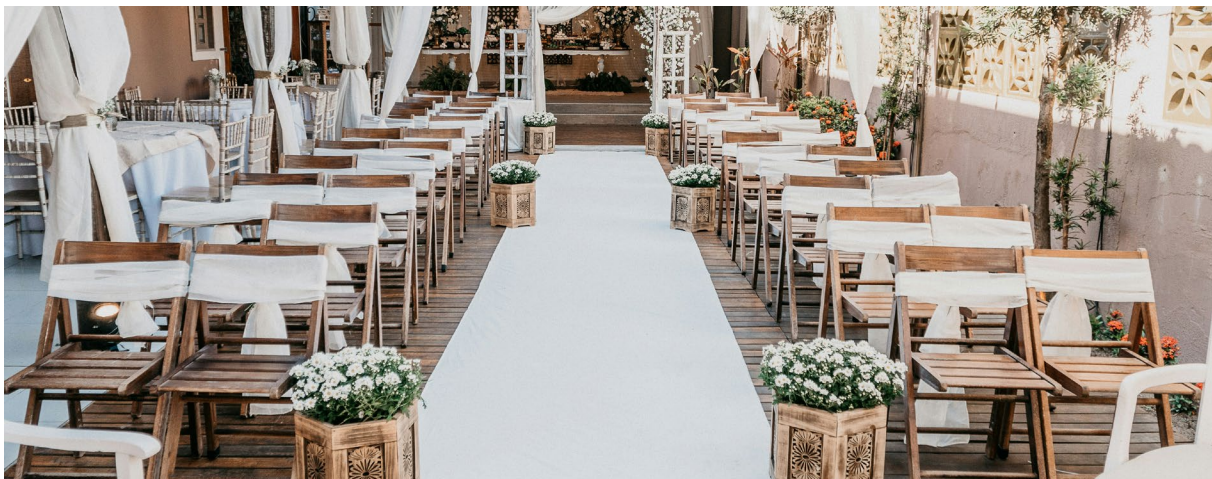
IMPORTANT: You are not married until the ceremony is performed.

Location: The marriage ceremony can be held anywhere in California, but the license must be registered in the county where it was issued.

Witnesses: A public marriage license requires at least one witness, but up to two may witness the ceremony. If you do have two witnesses, both must sign the marriage license. There is no age limit for witnesses, but they should be old enough to understand they are witnessing a marriage and be able to sign their names on the marriage license.

Consent: During the ceremony, your officiant will ask questions that prompt your consent. No specific language must be stated, but both parties must acknowledge they consent to become married to one another.

Your officiant will guide you through this process. An example is also included in your officiant's instructions.



LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE												
STATE FILE NUMBER				MUST BE LEGIBLE - MAKE NO ERASURES, WHITEOUTS, OR OTHER ALTERATIONS USE DARK INK ONLY				LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER				
- Given - FIRST PERSON DATA	1A. FIRST NAME <i>John</i>				1B. MIDDLE 							
	1C. CURRENT LAST <i>Smith</i>				1D. LAST NAME AT BIRTH (IF DIFFERENT THAN 1C) 							
	2. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/CCYY) <i>04/11/2000</i>		3. STATE/COUNTRY OF BIRTH <i>CA, USA</i>		4. # PREV. MARRIAGES/SRDP 		5A. LAST MARRIAGE/SRDP ENDED BY: <small>1. DEATH 2. DISSO 3. ANNULMENT 4. TERM SRDP 5. NIA</small>		5B. DATE ENDED (MM/DD/CCYY) 			
	6. ADDRESS <i>123 Apple St.</i>				7. CITY <i>Visalia</i>		8. STATE/COUNTRY <i>CA, USA</i>		9. ZIP CODE <i>93277</i>			
	10A. FULL BIRTH NAME OF FATHER/PARENT <i>Mike Smith</i>				10B. STATE OF BIRTH (IF OUTSIDE U.S. ENTER COUNTRY) <i>California</i>							
11A. FULL BIRTH NAME OF MOTHER/PARENT <i>Mary Jones</i>				11B. STATE OF BIRTH (IF OUTSIDE U.S. ENTER COUNTRY) <i>California</i>								
- Given - SECOND PERSON DATA	12A. FIRST NAME <i>Jane</i>				12B. MIDDLE 							
	12C. CURRENT LAST <i>Doe</i>				12D. LAST NAME AT BIRTH (IF DIFFERENT THAN 12C) 							
	13. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/CCYY) <i>04/11/2000</i>		14. STATE/COUNTRY OF BIRTH <i>CA, USA</i>		15. # PREV. MARRIAGES/SRDP 		16A. LAST MARRIAGE/SRDP ENDED BY: <small>1. DEATH 2. DISSO 3. ANNULMENT 4. TERM SRDP 5. NIA</small>		16B. DATE ENDED (MM/DD/CCYY) 			
	17. ADDRESS <i>123 Orange Ave.</i>				18. CITY <i>Exeter</i>		19. STATE/COUNTRY <i>CA, USA</i>		20. ZIP CODE <i>93221</i>			
	21A. FULL BIRTH NAME OF FATHER/PARENT <i>Phil Doe</i>				21B. STATE OF BIRTH (IF OUTSIDE U.S. ENTER COUNTRY) <i>California</i>							
22A. FULL BIRTH NAME OF MOTHER/PARENT <i>Anne Deer</i>				22B. STATE OF BIRTH (IF OUTSIDE U.S. ENTER COUNTRY) <i>California</i>								
AFFIDAVIT	WE, THE UNDERSIGNED DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT WE ARE UNMARRIED AND THAT THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. WE FURTHER DECLARE THAT NO LEGAL OBJECTION TO THE MARRIAGE NOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE IS KNOWN TO US. WE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY FAMILY CODE SECTION 398 AND HEREBY APPLY FOR A LICENSE AND CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.											
	23. SIGNATURE OF PERSON LISTED IN FIELDS 1A-1D 						24. SIGNATURE OF PERSON LISTED IN FIELDS 12A-12D 					
LICENSE TO MARRY	1. THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PARTIES TO BE MARRIED HAVE PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME, OR THE PERSON PERFORMING THE CEREMONY HAS PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE ME AND PRESENTED AN AFFIDAVIT SIGNED BY THE PARTIES TO BE MARRIED DECLARING THAT ONE OR BOTH OF THE PARTIES ARE PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO APPEAR AND EXPLAINING THE REASONS THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH FAMILY CODE SECTION 426. THE PARTIES PROVIDED TO ME ON THE BASIS OF SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE TO BE THE PERSONS CLAIMED, HAVE DECLARED THAT THEY MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, AND HAVE PAID THE FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW. AUTHORIZATION AND LICENSE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PERSONS DULY AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE CEREMONY WITHIN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO SOLEMNIZE THE MARRIAGE OF THE ABOVE-NAMED PERSONS. REQUIRED CONSENTS AND AFFIDAVITS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THIS LICENSE ARE ON FILE.											
	25A. ISSUE DATE (MM/DD/CCYY) 				25B. EXPIRES AFTER (MM/DD/CCYY) 		25C. NAME OF COUNTY CLERK 		25D. SIGNATURE OF CLERK OR DEPUTY CLERK 			
	25E. MARRIAGE LICENSE NUMBER 				25F. COUNTY OF ISSUE 		25G. RETURN COMPLETED MARRIAGE LICENSE TO (INCLUDE ADDRESS): 					
WITNESSES <small>(WE REQUIRE NO MORE THAN TWO ALLOWED)</small>	26A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS 						26B. NAME OF PERSON WITNESSING MARRIAGE (TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY) 					
	26C. ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/COUNTRY, AND ZIP CODE 											
	27A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS 						27B. NAME OF PERSON WITNESSING MARRIAGE (TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY) 					
27C. ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/COUNTRY, AND ZIP CODE 												
CERTIFICATION OF PERSON SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE	1. THE UNDERSIGNED, DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, THAT THE ABOVE-NAMED PARTIES WERE JOINED BY ME IN MARRIAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. NOTE: THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY MUST TAKE PLACE IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.											
	28A. DATE OF MARRIAGE (MM/DD/CCYY) 				28B. CITY/TOWN OF MARRIAGE 				28C. COUNTY OF MARRIAGE 			
	29A. SIGNATURE OF PERSON SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE 						29B. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION (IF CLERGY) 					
	29C. NAME OF PERSON SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE (TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY) 						29D. OFFICIAL TITLE 					
	29E. ADDRESS, CITY, STATE/COUNTRY, AND ZIP CODE 											
NEW NAMES <small>(IF ANY)</small>	NEW MIDDLE AND LAST NAME OF PERSON LISTED IN 1A-1D (IF ANY) FOR USE UPON SOLEMNIZATION OF THE MARRIAGE (SEE REVERSE FOR INFORMATION)											
	30A. FIRST - MUST BE SAME AS 1A 				30B. MIDDLE 				30C			

- The state requires this form to be completed in English.
- Use black or blue permanent ink. Avoid erasable ink pens and pencils.
- Stay within each box. Avoid crossing the lines.
- Avoid abbreviations and unnecessary punctuations.
- Only enter the information requested. If a section already has dashes (- -), do not enter any information.
- A marriage license will not be accepted if it has: strikeovers, correction tape or fluid, erasures, stains or tears.
- If a marriage license contains a mistake or error, a duplicate license will need to be purchased to correct it. Please note that this is a multi-step process and may take some time. The cost is \$62.
- If the marriage license is lost, damaged or destroyed **before the ceremony**, you must purchase a new one for \$93. The old license will be voided. *See pg. 6 under Return The License for instructions on what to do if the license is lost after the ceremony.*

Completed in Clerk-Recorder's Office
1A-24

These sections were completed when you received your marriage license. Please review them for accuracy prior to your wedding day.

- Each witness should be able to sign and print their name and enter their address.
- There is no age restriction to be a witness.
- One witness is required. No more than two are allowed.

Completed day of the ceremony
28A-29E

- Enter the date of the ceremony in the following format: MM/DD/CCYY.
- Enter the city/town and county where the ceremony was held. If at a remote place, enter the name of the city that would provide postal service if there was a home or business located there.
- Sign and print your name and enter your complete mailing address.
- If a member of the clergy, enter your religious denomination or write "non denominational."
- Enter your official title. This is the title that gives the authority to solemnize the marriage. If deputized for the day, enter "Deputy Commissioner of Marriage."

These sections are not to be completed by applicant or officiant.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

6. RETURN THE LICENSE

Return the completed license within 10 days of the ceremony to the County Clerk’s Office at 221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 105, in Visalia, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The license should be returned in person due to the significance of the original document. If that is not possible, it can be returned by mail using the return envelope in your marriage license packet.

If the marriage license is lost, damaged, or destroyed after the ceremony or deemed unacceptable for registration by the County Clerk, the officiant must be issued a duplicate marriage license. Please note that issuing a duplicate license is a multi-step process that may take some time and should be started as soon as possible. The cost is \$62.

7. PURCHASE THE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

A marriage certificate is not automatically sent to you upon returning the marriage license. You can purchase a certified copy:

- 1. In person with a valid ID or by mail. Visit our website at <https://tularecounty.ca.gov/assessor/county-clerk-recorder/marriage-certificate/> for more information about ordering a copy of your marriage certificate from our office.
- 2. You can also order a copy of your marriage certificate from a third-party vendor online using a credit card at www.VitalChek.com.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THE COUNTY CLERK IS MANDATED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION TO EVERY APPLICANT FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE. WE HOPE YOU FIND THE FOLLOWING LINKS USEFUL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE PHYSICAL COPIES, OUR OFFICE CAN PROVIDE THEM.

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO OFFICIATE A WEDDING

California Family Code section 400 specifies who is authorized to solemnize a marriage within the state. According to this section, the following individuals are permitted to perform marriage ceremonies: religious officials, judicial officers, legislators, constitutional officers and deputy commissioners of civil marriages. For more information on the legal requirements to officiate a wedding, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=400&lawCode=FAM



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

GENETIC DISEASE SCREENING

The California Department of Public Health wants you to know important information about genetic disease screening if you’re planning to start a family. www.cdph.ca.gov/YFT



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

THE NAME EQUALITY ACT OF 2007

The Name Equality Act of 2007 allows one or both applicants to change their middle and/or last names. It is best that these decisions are made prior to beginning the marriage license application process. www.cdph.ca.gov/YFT



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

The Family Planning, Access, Care, and Treatment (PACT) program provides family planning services for low-income men, women, and teens. Services include education, contraceptives, and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). www.tchhsa.org/eng/public-health/family-planning-access-care-treatment-pact



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

HIV/AIDS

HIV is the virus that causes HIV disease and AIDS. Everyone who has HIV has HIV disease, including people with AIDS. While there is no cure for HIV, drugs are available that can help people with HIV and AIDS live long and healthy lives.

How do you get HIV?

HIV is passed through unsafe sex, contact with blood from a person infected with HIV, and drinking breast milk from a woman infected with HIV. A woman who has been infected with HIV may pass it on to her baby during pregnancy, delivery or through breastfeeding.

Where do you get the test?

You can get a confidential HIV test from your healthcare provider, doctor, clinic or county health department. For more information, call 1-800-CDC INFO (232-4636) or visit www.cdc.gov/hiv/testing/index.html

For more information on AIDS, visit: www.cdph.ca.gov/aids



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is more than a disagreement and encompasses abusive behavior that can be physical, emotional, psychological or sexual. Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used to gain power and control over an intimate partner or spouse. Physical violence does not need to occur for a relationship to be abusive. Domestic violence is against the law. If you need emergency help, call 911 or the police immediately.

Resources:

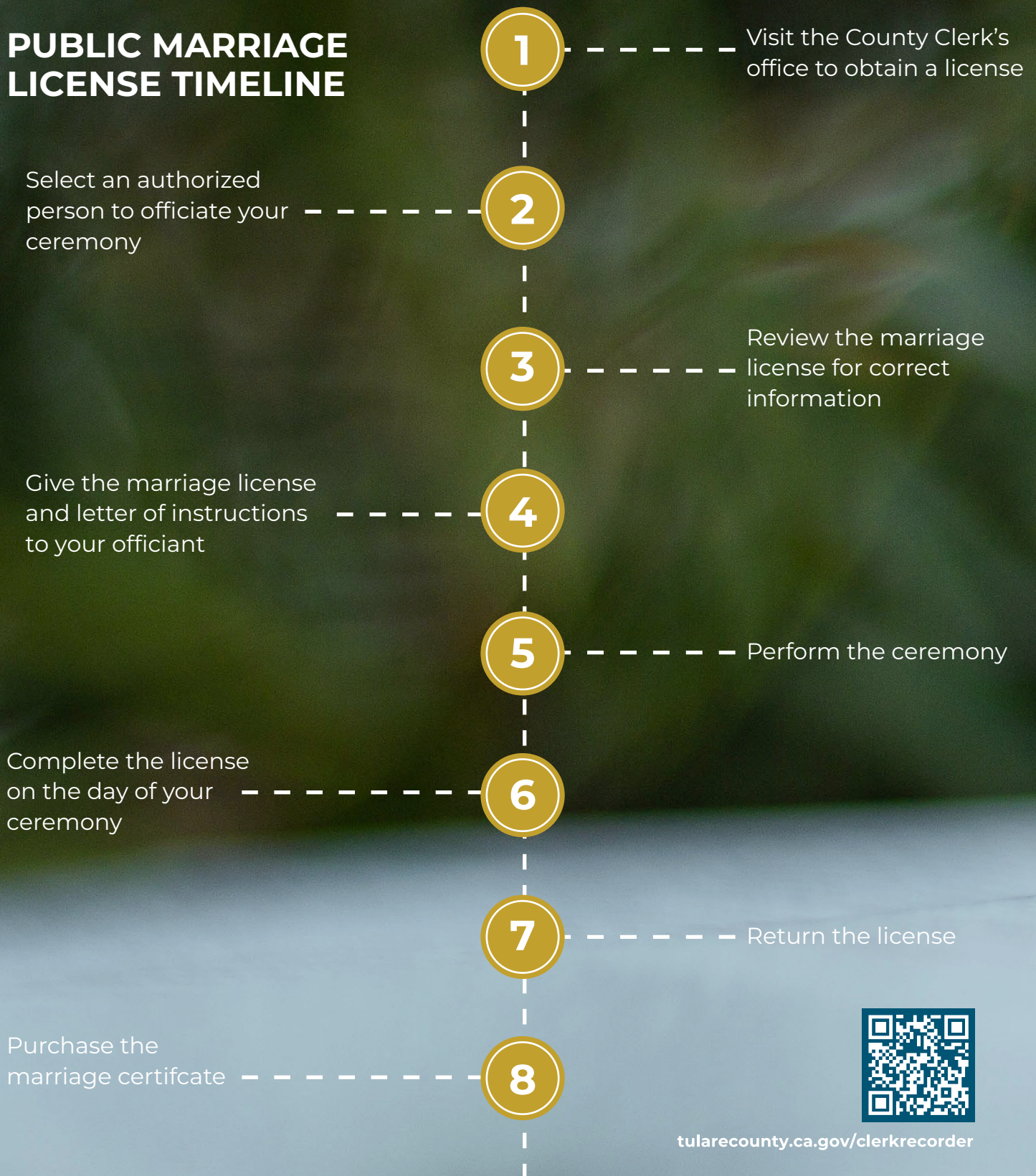
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) | 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) | www.ndvh.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) | www.rainn.org



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION:

PUBLIC MARRIAGE LICENSE TIMELINE



[tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkrecorder](https://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/clerkrecorder)

Office of the County Clerk

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